

NEPMU Five e-newsletter Oct 2005 Vol. 1, Issue 8

MILVAX : ANTHRAX

On 22 Jul 05, the FDA approved an extension until 14 Jan 06 of the Emergency Usage Authorization (EUA) for anthrax immunization to prevent inhalation anthrax. Before this extension was granted, the previous deadline date for the EUA was 27 Jul 05. The message referencing this information is in NAVADMIN 188/05. This message can be found on the MILVAX website (www.vaccine.mil) under the AVIP section. If you have any questions concerning this please contact Mr. J.T. Evans, MILVAX Regional Analyst at (619) 556-7070 or email jtevans@nepmu5.med.navy.mil.

Training:

CANTRAC Courses in Oct/Nov/Dec

25 Oct	Shipboard Pest Management	13-15 Dec	DOD Pest Management Recertification
10 Nov	Shipboard Pest Management	22 Dec	Water Sanitation Afloat

Entomology: NDVECC BANGOR CLOSES ITS DOORS

Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center (NDVECC) Bangor, Washington was disestablished on 30 September 2005. All entomology and vector surveillance and control support for the West Coast (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, and Arizona) has been transferred to the NEPMU-5 Vector Control Department. Support includes all technical services to ships, shore installations, and operational units within our AOR. Requests for on-site technical assist visits and training of personnel located at Navy activities in the Northwest can be arranged through the appropriate department at NEPMU-5.

Threat Assessment: DNBI Reporting Senior Medical Department Representatives should be on the look out for a new Disease Non-Battle Injury (DNBI) reporting requirement that will be promulgated by Third Fleet within the next few weeks. The report will be a weekly requirement and will utilize an EXCEL spreadsheet format. It is based on a requirement set forth in a Joint Chiefs of Staff memorandum: "Updated Procedures for Deployment Health Surveillance and Readiness" dated 1 February 2002. NEPMU Five Threat Assessment Department will be deeply involved in this process. We stand ready to provide assistance with the reporting process should you have questions or difficulties.

Industrial Hygiene: Protect Your Hearing

Noise induced hearing loss may be the most widespread potential health hazard facing active duty and civilian personnel within the Navy and Marine Corps. Nationally, more than five million workers are exposed to hazardous noise and more than one million have suffered significant hearing loss as a result of noise exposure. Hazardous noise is any continuous sound that exceeds 84 decibels or any brief (impact) sound that exceeds 140 decibels.

The decibel is an arbitrary unit of loudness. It doesn't matter whether you're hearing a chainsaw or amplified music, at levels above 84 decibels, you are at risk of developing a noise induced hearing loss. A noise induced hearing loss is typically painless and so gradual that it goes unnoticed in the early stages. Later, victims may complain that speech is hard to understand and often resort to asking others to repeat themselves.

With proper precautions, hearing loss due to noise is preventable. The use of properly fitted hearing protective devices (HPDs), available at your medical department, provides excellent hearing protection and comfort. If you wear your HPDs and receive monitoring audiograms on schedule, you could avoid a permanent hearing disorder. Ears don't get toughened or "used to" noise; deafness takes place.

Everyone gradually loses some hearing as they get older. But, if you add noise induced hearing loss during your career, what's it going to be like when you retire? If you protect your precious gift of hearing today, a hearing aid might not be needed tomorrow. Author: LCDR J. Saul, MSC, Navy Audiologist <http://www.vnh.org/NHB/>

[HW9524HearingProtect.html](http://www.vnh.org/NHB/HW9524HearingProtect.html) (June 1995)

EH and Preventive Medicine: Food Safety Training

SECNAVINST 4061.1C has been cancelled and BUMEDINST 4061.2 is the revised *Food Safety Training Requirements* for all Dept. of Navy Food Service and Medical Personnel. The changes include:

- 1) 5.A: Food employees shall receive a minimum of 4 hours initial food safety training *prior* to working in a food establishment. Previously, as P-5010 states, food employees had 30 days to receive this 4 hr training.
- 2) 5.B (1): Navy CANTRAC Course B-322-2101, "Food Safety Manager's/Supervisor's Course" is required for all personnel designated as a person in charge *within 30 days* of that assignment. This training certification is valid for *5 years*. Previously, as the P-5010 states, the person in charge needed to complete the course prior to assuming responsibility and take a refresher course every 3 years.

Expect to see the P-5010 updated to reflect these changes soon. To view the BUMEDINST 4061.2, go to <http://navymedicine.med.navy.mil/default.cfm?seltab=directives>.

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